



INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

ELECTORAL COUP



Gen. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz speaks to the press shortly after being declared the victor in the previous day's presidential election, in central Nouakchott, Mauritania Sunday, July 19, 2009. Nearly a year after seizing power in a military putsch that ousted Mauritania's first freely elected leader, Aziz won the presidency Sunday in a landslide vote his opponents decried as a fraudulent "electoral coup."

See World News Page 8

SPORTS NEWS

CINK-OPATION



Stewart Cink of the U.S. holds the trophy after winning a playoff following the final round of the British Open Golf championship, at the Turnberry golf course, Scotland, Sunday, July 19, 2009.

See Sports Today Page 11

Over 50 Years of Island Hospitality

Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa celebrates 50th Anniversary



Palm Beach – The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, fondly referred to as La Grande Dame, celebrated its 50th anniversary on Saturday. The gala event was co produced by the Aruba Tourism Authority. The evening's program recreated the island's journey, sailing into the past to cruise along decades of dedication, hard work and achievements of those who believed in the force of the island's hospitality and the richness of its history, culture and perfect beaches.

The "All Aboard" invitations filled the Grand Caribbean Ballroom with tourism pioneers and visionaries,

members of the media and economic pillars of the community for a special event of tribute, commemoration and gratitude.

First to take off, the official opening of a photo exhibition documenting what started in 1935 with KLM's snip aircraft landing at the Dakota terminal bringing in visitors, through the arrival of the Grace Line cruise ship in 1957, which became the first of many ships to drop anchor in the Oranjestad harbor.

What started as a promise of a bright future turned into a solid industry and the exposition curated by Checkpoint Color

with over 500 restored photographs tells the island's living history over the past 5 decades – it will be open to the public in the lower lobby of the resort through Aug 3rd. The exposition was inaugurated by the island's interim governor Mrs. Ella Yarzagaray, the Minister of

Tourism & Transportation Edison Briesen and the Director of the Aruba Tourism Authority Myrna Jansen-Feliciano.

All guests viewed the photographs as well as the posters of past national ad campaigns with great appreciation, before congregating theater-style for an informative History of Tourism presentation by Mario Arends reviewing the highlights of the past five decades.

The evening third's part included a brief welcome by the Minister of Tourism and an excellent address by the Director of the Aruba Tourism Authority focusing on the evolution of the Aruba tourist product.

Continued on Pages 8 & 9



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NASCAR and Formula One & Cart Driver

Juan Pablo Montoya visits Aruba again



PALM BEACH - Juan Pablo Montoya is a race car driver in NASCAR and a former Formula One and CART driver. He has enjoyed great success, most famously in top open wheel racing series.

He currently drives the #42 Target/Wrigley's Chevrolet Impala for Earnhardt Ganassi Racing in the Sprint Cup Series.

The highlights of his career include winning the International F3000 championship in 1998, and the CART Championship Series in 1999, as well as victories in some of the most prestigious races in the world.

He is the only driver to have won the premier North American open-



wheel CART title, the Indianapolis 500 and the 24 Hours of Daytona, all at the first attempt.

Montoya is one of two drivers to have won the CART title in his rookie year, the first being Formula One World Champion Nigel Mansell in 1993. He has also equalled Graham Hill's feat of being a Monaco Grand

Prix and Indianapolis 500 race winner; Montoya is currently one of only two active drivers (along with Jacques Villeneuve) who has won two legs of the Triple Crown of Motorsport.

Juan Pablo Montoya is pictured with the culinary team of Benihanas Restaurant in Palm Beach.

50
Aniversary

50
Aniversary



Tourism Authority

Congratulation
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with you 50 Aniversary



50
Aniversary

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Aniversary

Fans of the French Steakhouse enjoy the Ambassador 5-course menu



EAGLE BEACH -- Holiday Inn, have been Mark, Sheryl, Scott and visiting Aruba and the Sean Raudonaitis, from Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, for the past 10 years,

always stopping by to savor the Ambassador 5-course menu, at the French Steakhouse.

While the family mostly seeks rest on the island, which they easily find at their resort, as a special treat they travel down to Eagle Beach for a family dinner together.

They like everything, they confess from Certified Beef Churrasco, to the fresh fish, the sides are sinfully, and everything between the basket of olive-oil and herb drizzled foccacia bread to the apfel strudel a la mode dessert, is fantastic.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano



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"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

The Director of the Aruba Tourism Authority

Myrna Jansen Feliciano commemorates the Radisson's 50th anniversary



PALM BEACH – In her address at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, Myrna Hansen Feliciano welcomed Her Excellency Acting Governor of Aruba, Mrs. Ella Tromp-Yarzagaray, the Minister of Tourism and Transportation, Edison Briesen, Members of Parliament, distinguished pioneers, entrepreneurs, and guests to the Grand Caribbean Ballroom. The following were her remarks on the occasion of the celebration:

Welcome to this special event commemorating a milestone in the history of tourism of Aruba. Allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate the Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa General Manager Gary Jutz, his management team, the Aruba Tourism Authority associates, long time employees of the resort and the former Aruba Caribbean Hotel, on the occasion of this 50th anniversary.

All the pioneers and entrepreneurs, members of government, Aruba Tourism Authority and Aruba Hotel and

Tourism Association, various tourism industry representatives – and the people of Aruba – all contributed in the early development of tourism here and through the 50 years, during the fabulous journey undertaken by the local hospitality industry.

Project leader Amayra Boekhoudt, of the Aruba Tourism Authority together with the Radisson's team, Lily Polsbroek, Mylene Marquez and their crew, Checkpoint Color's Farita Luidens, artist and decorator

Maria Theresa Martinez, and the ATA team with Mario and Sjeidy supported by Amylene Paesch and Thais Nava, and the entire ATA Team made this evening possible.

Thank you for your great effort and thank you all for being part of this great celebration.

More than 50 years of hospitality is definitely something to celebrate and commemorate. Sometimes, in order to move forward, one has to look back and savor the achievements and the qualities of the people that made those achievements possible. One may then finalize or adjust one's vision for the



future.

When I was reading through some research material on the history of tourism, what impressed me most was the extreme effort made in the first phase in the development of tourism. The vision, the dream of

some individuals, triggered an impulse in others: impulses of courage, initiative, determination, dedication, creativity, assurance and perseverance, and leadership to achieve a bold beginning in tourism development in spite of all obstacles. Perhaps more was achieved than was even envisioned.

In reviewing the history of tourism, it also struck me as peculiar, that most of the challenges that we have today, we also experienced 50 years ago. Of course, 50 years ago, the size of those challenges was limited because tourism at that time was in its infancy.

(to give you an idea, 50 years ago, they were concerned with the poor condition and/or lack of roads, they were preoccupied with increased crime, with the high price of tourism service, the lack of local flavor in entertainment and food, and some major concerns were expressed in



view of competition.)

Even in marketing, there are quite some tools that we still use today, that were used 50 years ago. I chuckled when I read that from the late 50s on, Breakfast Seminars, Tradeshows, Media Events and parties for Travel Agents were hosted lavishly as well as visiting airline executives. Those were all important then and are still important now.

Now, 50 years later, our tourism industry has grown in leaps and bounds.

From 300 hotel rooms to almost 8000 hotel and timeshare rooms.

From a few restaurants to over 300 restaurants.

From some airline flights per week to over thirty, flights PER DAY!

We now market in over 10 countries and have more than 13 representation offices abroad, dealing with 10 different currencies.

From a few thousand visitors 50 years ago, we now receive over 800,000 visitors by air and over 500,000 by cruise ship per year.

Our population has more than doubled to almost 120,000.

Our competition which was limited to a few Caribbean islands, expanded to 32 Caribbean destinations and globalization made every other country in the world, offering tourism as an economic tool, a

competitor.

The \$100,000 dollar budget for marketing in the 50s, became almost \$20 million dollars at present.....

Only one thing has not changed, and that is the geographic size of the island!

History proved that Aruba achieved many successes and the island is considered a leader in the Caribbean. Aruba is the measuring stick, the benchmark in hospitality and friendship, good service, beautiful beaches, superb culinary experiences, excellent tourism and hotel infrastructure, a bonanza of activities and at the same time a relaxing and safe atmosphere. With the public and private sector

working together for success, tourism has indeed become the most important economic pillar of the island.

While the global tourism scenario has changed quite a bit, some factors have definitely changed the industry forever.

The internet is here to stay and determines the way business is done. Especially in tourism. Although we still put emphasis on the personal touch, we have revolutionized our marketing approach to adapt to current trends. Social networking and direct bookings permeated our world and ATA is taking advantage of it, marketing the name Aruba and all its attributes. □



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Maxime Verhagen, Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs asks to meet with opposition leader Mike Eman



ORANJESTAD - Upon the personal invitation of the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maxime Verhagen, the leader of the AVP party, Mike Eman, met with the Dutch Minister yesterday during his visit to Aruba. The meeting went in good ambiance and they talked about the Constitution, the obligatory visa and the relationship between Aruba and the Netherlands. The Dutch department of foreign

affairs also negotiates affairs outside the Kingdom. According to the Minister, his department deals with Aruba because they represent Aruba and Aruba's international interests. The Minister pointed out that a good relationship between the partners in the Kingdom is very important for both sides. There has been a situation going on in the last few years between Aruba and the Netherlands that does

not favor either side. The situation has been worsening and consequently, there is practically no longer talk of a healthy relationship between the two parts of the Kingdom. In addition there are now also problems between Aruba and the other part of the Kingdom, the Antilles. According to Mike Eman the two countries have to start working on improving relations between the two

members of the Kingdom. According to the AVP there is a lot more to win with a good relationship between the partners in the Kingdom than

with the present situation. In the end both men praised each others work regarding the relationship between our countries. □



Appetizer

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- Onion Soup
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- Escargot
- Salad

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Caribbean Kids Sail Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship 2009, BVI'S Alec Anderson finishes an Impressive Seventh Overall



By Marjolein van Aanholt-Grol

The world's top young sailing talent was gathered in Buzios, Brazil for racing at the 39th Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship. Close to 300 of the world's top sailors representing 59 nations were sailing in 7 different classes. Ard en Philipine van Aanholt (AHO) represented the Netherlands Antilles. Other Caribbean sailors present were: Alec Anderson from the British Virgin Island, Mayumi Roller, Tyler Rice and William Gibson from the US Virgin Islands, Raul Rios and Antonio Sifre Torren from Puerto Rico. The Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship, open to competitors who do not exceed the age of 18 during the calendar year of the event, represents the

undisputed pinnacle of youth sailing. Entry is restricted to one boat per nation, per event, so the sailors have already had to win through their national qualification series to earn their place in Brazil. The Boys' One Person Dinghy, the Laser Radial event had the huge entry this year, with over 50 nations represented in the fleet.

Alec Anderson (18) and Ard van Aanholt (15) started in this event, a much better choice for the boys then last years Laser Standard. In the Girls' Laser Radial event, the winner of the past two editions, Gabrielle King (AUS) made her final Youth Worlds appearance in Arhus last July. Isabella Bertold (CAN), Heidi Tenkanen (FIN) and Elizabeth Yin (SIN) all return to the Youth Worlds

this year aiming to build on impressive finishes last time out in Denmark. Mayumi "Mimi" Roller and Philipine van Aanholt, former Optimist opponents at the water but friends on shore both raced in the Laser Radial Class.

Following on from 2008, where the 29er was equipment for the Boys' and Girls' Two Person Dinghy events, in Brazil this year the 420 returns to the Youth Worlds fold. The 2008 Optimist World champion Raul Rios and crew Antonio Sifre Torren and Tyler Rice and Billy Gibbons sailed the boys 420 class.

Racing Day One and Two:

Four races had been completed across all seven events, with a scheduled seven remaining. All competitors had the opportunity to attend the first post-race debrief hosted by ISAF Coach Santiago Lange (ARG). As a double Olympic medallist and veteran of America's Cup and Volvo Ocean Race campaigns, the Argentinean is one of the biggest stars of South American sailing, but is looking forward to taking up this new challenge. He reminded everyone in his post-race debriefing, "It's still relatively early on in there regatta. There

is still a long, long way to go. Don't worry about the leaderboard, and where the other teams are. For now, just focus on your own racing."

Racing Day Three and Four:

After 30 knot gusts forced the Race Committee to call off all of scheduled races on the third day of racing. After beautiful weather during the lay day it was a total absence of the wind on day four which was the problem. Everyone in Buzios kept their fingers tightly crossed for the rest of the event.

But in spite of the lack of racing, it's still became a memorable day. For the second time at the 2009 Volvo Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship competitors ISAF Coach Santi Lange (ARG) joined by none other than Torben Grael (BRA), five-time Olympic medallist and winning skipper of the recent edition of the Volvo Ocean Race (amongst countless other sailing achievements) reviewed some of their highlights from the recent Volvo Ocean Race plus answering questions on their experiences across the VOR, Olympic Games, America's Cups and more.

Final results:

In the Girls' Laser fleet, Singapore's Elizabeth Yin

is the new leader, she felt completely at home in the light and shifty winds. Anne-Marie Rindom from Denmark took Silver and Mathilde Kerangat brought home the Bronze for France. Mimi Roller sailed twice in the top ten again and finished at a respectable 14th place overall. Philipine van Aanholt who already has a World title in the Splash class last year ended up at 25. Alec Anderson from the tiny island Tortola showed the world that kids from the Caribbean know how to sail by finishing an impressive seventh at his last Youth Worlds. The boys' Laser event was won by Sam Meech from New Zealand. At his first ISAF Youth Worlds 15 year old Ard van Aanholt from Curacao showed potential and class by scoring a 29th overall among 53 talented young sailors. In the 420 Boys class Tyler Rice and Billy Gibbons scored a 28 overall and Raul Rios and Antonio Sifre Torren from Puerto Rico finished 26th in a fleet of 31 boats.

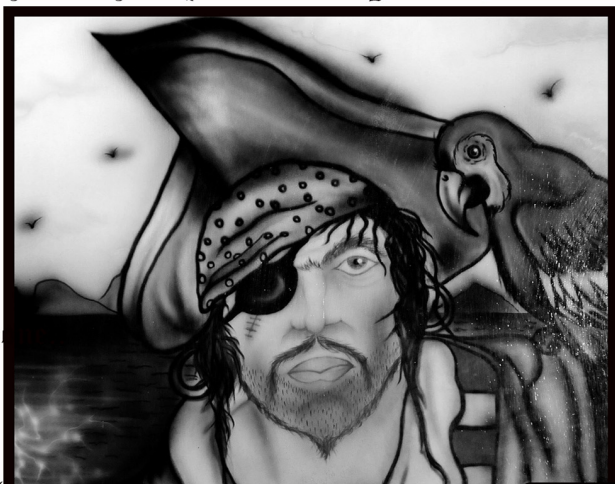
In the battle for the Volvo Trophy, the prize for top nation was awarded to France, followed by Great Britain and Italy. Next year the prestigious ISAF Youth Worlds will be held in Turkey and provides a new chance for the worlds best youth sailors to show their progress. □

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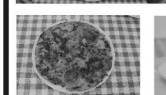


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Café de Pijp opens its doors at South Beach Center – Palm Beach!

Bring this article for a FREE Heineken draft beer per person



PALM BEACH - Last week, Café de Pijp officially inaugurated its authentic "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" conveniently located at the South Beach Center in Palm Beach opposite Segafredo. Café de Pijp has been operating since June 19th and has now made the opening official with various members of the press and guests. All guests received a warm welcome from the management in a nice and cozy ambiance with entertainment of the band The Equator.

Café de Pijp has been designed and founded by Mr. Alex de Haan. He has a

lot of experience with this kind of specific Oud Hollands Café in the Netherlands. The interior of Café de Pijp, which is almost 60 m2, has been constructed with dark wood materials which give the ambiance a very cozy and warm feeling.

They play all kinds of music, from Dutch, to English to Latin American. Every day you can enjoy the peanut consumption with your favorite drink. This peanut concept "Pelpinda's" is a typical Dutch custom, where the guests of the Dutch bar peel their peanuts and throw the shells on the floor and enjoy doing it! When entering the Dutch bar and encountering all the peanut shells on the floor, don't be surprised, as this is one of the most common custom for a typical Old Dutch Bar in the Netherlands.

Café de Pijp will have several activities programmed for its guests in the near future. These activities include Dart competitions among other cafes and guests, Karaoke nights, Jazz nights and Salsa nights. **Café de Pijp serves delicious snacks for its guests and invites their customers to enjoy these snacks free of charge on Friday afternoons.** Café de Pijp will also have their "Pijpjesavond" where one can buy beer at a very inexpensive price. Café de Pijp will also offer



a special drink of the week for the non beer drinkers. **Heineken draught beer will have a price of only AWG 5,- every day.**

For one month Café de Pijp will have a special Grand Opening offer in newspapers. Bring the newspaper ad and get a FREE Heineken draught beer with this ad per person. Do not miss this special offer, just bring it to Café de Pijp and enjoy your FREE beer in a typical "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" Café

de Pijp offers its customers very attractive consumption prices compared to other bars in the vicinity, a great ambiance and LIVE entertainment by Alex as well!

We invite you to visit us at the South Beach Center and experience the fun yourself! For more information please call us at 745-4706.



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PALM BEACH - Fresher than fresh, is the motto of the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill at De Palm Pier.

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Jumbled Chef Marc Hernandez is proudly presenting his rich platter with an 18oz Red Snapper or Grouper, a choice depending on the catch of that day. "Bugaloe is known for fun and craziness, so it was just a logical step for me to go crazy with this colorful pallet

of exquisite fish, yellow rice and rich vegetables," Chef Marc says. With a smile he adds "And that just for US\$ 20!"

And right he is, as the platter has been a hit from the start. Served with a bottle of white wine this fish feast is truly a delight on your Monday night.

Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.

OPENING HOURS

Bugaloe Beach Bar and Grill is open daily from 8am till midnight. You may go there for a casual lunch or dinner and on Mondays the special is served from 5:30pm till 10:00pm. Reservations are not needed... just follow the good music, the fun and the smiles on the beach and you will know where Bugaloe is.



SALSA WORKSHOP

Always wanted to learn how to dance Salsa? Well, you will get your chance on Wednesday evening. Reggie and Sabine from ArubaSalsa will show you the moves of Latin

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Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa celebrates 50th Anniversary



Continued from Front Page
At the heart of the evening given to key personalities, individuals whose vision and creativity quantum-leaped

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Aruba from a sleepy island mid 50s, to a well-defined international vacation brand. Recognitions were awarded to visionaries Oscar Henriquez and posthumously to Juancho Irausquin, the commemorative frame was received by attorney Monica Kock, entrepreneur and businessman Morris Neme, developers Eduardo De Veer, Raymond Maduro & Ewald Biemans, restaurateur Eduardo Ellis, marketing guru Eileen Bartels Daal, tour operators Ramon Richardson, Harold Malmberg and Herman Ponson, Bar owner Charlie Brouns Jr III in honor of his father and grandfather, musician Joy Kock, singer and entertainer Lloyd Baptist, show host Lou Pavlis, and posthumously hotelier Ike Cohen and Wich de Palm,

whose framed certificate was received by his son Nelson de Palm. Marcel Wortman, one the resort's first managers, escorted by his wife, was the guest of honor. He was warmly welcomed back by the current general manager Gary Jutz and his wife Patricia, who also posed for a commemorative photo with long-term associates such as Eddy Pourier, Ruben Boekhoudt and Lucille Duinker. The evening was orchestrated by Lily Polsbroek of the Radisson Sales & Marketing Department and Amayra Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority, it was emceed by Ruben Trappenberg and accompanied by an all star band with vocalist Lucre Houtman.



Pictured here some of the memorable party moments. Delicious cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served by the Grande Dame's food & beverage department. □



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At Occidental Resort

Carla & Michael say "I Do"



PALM BEACH- Recently Carla Feliciano & Michael Riley from Boston, MA vowed eternal love to one another at Occidental Grand Resort. Carla, 35 is an Account Manager & Michael Riley, 34 a Court Officer. They have been together for Thirteen and a half years and engaged for five of those years.

The beach blessing was held at Occidental Grand Resort where they were guests enjoying a relaxing week in paradise. The Officiate Ruben



Trapenburg delivered the sermon alongside Michael's cousin & his wife who were on their "baby-moon" (expecting their first child).

The newlyweds enjoyed a sunset photo shoot with Bella Aruba Photography as the sunset disappeared behind the horizon The dinner reception was held at the 4 diamond Sunset Grill Restaurant

at Radisson Resort. "We want to thank Kimberly Dammerman, our coordinator in making our destination wedding experience one to cherish forever." stated the newlyweds. Aruba Today congratulates both couples and God Bless!!!

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



Bella Aruba Photography by Angela

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Environmental Assessment Workshop for territories

At an Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) sponsored workshop last April in Brussels, Belgium, Sustainable Development Coordinator Lisa-Ann Hurlston-McKenzie shared with other Caribbean territories the Cayman Islands' experience with implementing current EIA procedures, a government release has revealed. Hurlston-McKenzie's presentation on "The EIA Process in the Draft National Conservation Law of the Cayman Islands", she explained how the proposed EIA process would essentially codify existing informal arrangements with various approval authorities, and the manner by which triggers – such as locations and project types – would initiate the EIA process.

"The two-tiered system would afford better environmental scrutiny of land-based and coastal works applications, plans and policies but would not necessarily result in full EIA studies carried out for all such proposals," commented Hurlston-McKenzie. "Where full EIAs are not required, the National Conservation Council would recommend conditions of approval for which the authorizing agency (such as Central Planning Authority, Development Control Board or Cabinet) would have to consider when granting final permission under existing approval processes."

The workshop focused on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA). These two methodologies describe systems of incorporating environmental considerations into policies, plans and programmes, and the government release says reports which follow the event indicate that shared concerns and solutions should have

significant long-term benefits for all involved.

The OCTA is comprised of 17 countries and territories associated with four major European Union (EU) Member states, and incorporates the Caribbean's Dutch and English-speaking territories. There were 49 conference participants from countries throughout the hemisphere – from Greenland to Bonaire. Their respective environmental and developmental situations were especially relevant in discussions of symbiotic goals and plans.

The Cayman Islands was represented by a four-member contingent of Deputy Chief Officer for the Ministry of Environment Samuel Rose, Planning Director Kenneth Ebanks and DOE representatives Research Officer II Joni Kirkconnell and Hurlston-McKenzie.

Reporting on the Brussels event, OCTA states that some recommendations coming out of it included 'possibilities for capacity-building and training of OCT officials dealing with EIA/SEA matters', noting that this would 'help facilitate sustainable development... and create a framework for incorporating environmental issues within the economic and political decision-making in the OCTs.' To this end, regular meetings are already being planned.

The organisation further states that it was 'pleased with the great success due to the high amount of participants and the values of the knowledge and information made available and shared.'

"It is encouraging to know that Cayman is on the right track, generally, and not inconsistent with international practices," said Rose. From a perspective of local policy development,

he reports: "It was always clear that we need improvement in the process of our environmental impact assessments. This is part of Cayman's Draft Conservation Bill, and it would benefit all stakeholders – developers, the people, and the environment – if the process is clear and consistent with international best-practice. Credible developers are accustomed to transparent and fair EIA processes, with relative timeframes for involvement of government agencies."

Speaking of the experience of the Brussels conference, Rose acknowledged that there are differences in the application of environmental impact assessments amongst the English, Dutch and French territories. "While there are advantages and disadvantages in each approach, there is no single 'right way' and it was useful to develop new perspectives."

Kirkconnell emphasised this position, stating, "Each country is unique and therefore the process needs to be tailored based on the country's needs." She added that having the opportunity to meet and discuss the process with the OCTs helped with this tailoring process, and "provided a better understanding of SEAs and the realization that when it comes to environmental impact assessments, there is no 'one size fits all' solution." The Director of Planning stated that, "Even though there are major differences between the countries and territories, the workshop reinforced the position that we share some common challenges, and also numerous opportunities. From these we have the ability to create territory-specific communities that improve the quality of life and experiences for all."

Ebanks noted that networking with participants also increased opportunities for collaboration



in areas of technical expertise or "lessons learnt". "For example, Greenland is going through the planning process for what will probably be the world's largest aluminum smelting plant. Bonaire is developing a land-use plan. If Cayman received a similar development application, or experienced a particular impediment with our land use plan, we could consult with those counterparts. We would not have to follow their processes, but could select what is applicable locally."

Stating that he is looking forward to receiving the revised SEA template so that it can be modified to local use, Ebanks concluded that, "Engaging in the SEA exercise was very useful as this tool could be utilised to predict unanticipated environmental problems as a result of a particular programme, policy or plan."

Concluding, Policy Analyst in the Cabinet Office Christina Rowlandson clarified that this conference was the third segment of the OCTA Sustainable Development Conference Programme for civil servants in the OCTs.

"The programme, designed to address necessary issues concerning the environment and the challenges of climate change, has also dealt with waste management and water sanitation, as well as sustainable energy policy," she said. "The conferences will facilitate future policies and actions and enhance networking among

public sector leaders."

The event was funded by the EC Technical Cooperation Facility and supported by leaders of the OCTA Ministerial Conference, in particular OCTA's Executive Committee, Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, and the Cayman Islands. OCTA and the EC regularly brings professionals from OCTs together at major conferences, at which the networking and presentations facilitate the sharing of information, knowledge and expertise.

Laurens Warnink of the Netherlands Antilles is OCTA's president and chairman of the executive committee. The Cayman Islands chaired OCTA during 2008. The Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) comprises 17 members: Anguilla, Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, French Polynesia, Greenland, Mayotte, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, St. Helena and dependencies, St. Pierre and Miquelon, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Wallis and Futuna.

Photo: (L-R) Planning Director Kenneth Ebanks, DOE Research Officer II Joni Kirkconnell, DOE Sustainable Development Coordinator Lisa-Ann Hurlston-McKenzie, and Deputy Chief Officer for the Ministry of Environment Samuel Rose. □



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MSF: AIDS drug shortage threatens Africa

By MICHELLE FAUL,
Associated Press Writer

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — Doctors Without Borders warned on Saturday that a chronic shortage of drugs to treat AIDS in six African countries could cost thousands of lives and reverse progress made on the continent most afflicted by the disease.

In recent weeks, some clinics have stopped accepting new patients, Eric Goemaere, medical coordinator in South Africa of the organization, which is also known by its French abbreviation MSF, told The Associated Press.

He said apathy of governments, donors and the organizations they work with, as well as the global economic crisis, were to blame.

"There's no doubt people will die as a consequence. It's a catastrophe in the making," Goemaere said before

the opening of a four-day international AIDS conference in Cape Town.

A newsletter for the conference said, "Amidst a lingering global recession and reports that world leaders are retreating on prior commitments, the 5,000 AIDS researchers, implementers and community leaders gathering in Cape Town this weekend are determined to raise their collective voices."

The conference president, Dr. Julio Montaner of the Geneva-based International AIDS Society, added, "Either we move forward or we will fall back. That is the reality we face at this pivotal moment in HIV scale-up."

The countries affected are Zimbabwe, Uganda, Congo, Malawi, Guinea and South Africa, with the last suffering the highest rate of AIDS infection in the world.

At the end of 2007, 33 million people worldwide were living with HIV, according to the World Health Organization. Two-thirds of them live in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which provides a quarter of all international financing to fight AIDS across the world, has not received \$3 billion to \$4 billion in promised funding, according to Mit Philips of the MSF research center in Brussels.

"Some countries have committed but have not paid and there's a lot of uncertainty at an international level whether the Global Fund will get the money it needs," she said in a telephone interview. The fund has already slashed 10 percent from grants already approved last year, Philips said.

The fund's Web site says that, since its creation in 2002, it has approved \$15.6 billion for more than 572 programs 140 countries.

In addition, Philips said, there has been no promised increase in funds from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a pet project of President George W. Bush that is credited with saving millions of lives.

On the campaign trail, President Barack Obama promised to expand the program by a billion dollars a year. But Philips said funding has remained flat. Goemaere said organizations using the project's funds in Uganda have been told to stop taking on new patients. □

South Africa tests AIDS vaccine

By MICHELLE FAUL,
Associated Press Writer

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — South Africa is launching clinical trials of two AIDS vaccines its researchers developed in collaboration with U.S. experts, a major step for a developing country where political leaders once shocked the world with their unscientific pronouncements about the disease.

Trials to test the safety in humans of the vaccines begin this month on 36 healthy volunteers, Anthony Mbewu, president of South Africa's government-supported Medical Research Council, said in an interview Sunday. Mbewu's respected organization shepherded the project.

A trial of 12 volunteers in the United States began earlier this year. Mbewu said the vaccine was designed at the University of Cape Town with technical help from the U.S. National Institutes of Health, which also manufactured the vaccine.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease and a leading AIDS researcher, was in South Africa for the launch.

During nearly 10 years of denial and neglect, South Africa developed a staggering AIDS crisis. Around 5.2 million South Africans were living with HIV last year — the highest number of any country in the world. Young women are hardest hit, with one-third of those aged 20 to 34 infected with the virus.

In 1999, the ministries of health and of science and technology founded the vaccine initiative and poured 250 million rand into it over nearly 10 years.

Some 250 scientists and technicians worked on the project, along the way gaining scores of doctorates and producing work for professional publications as well as a model for continued biotechnology development in South Africa.

The government decided it was important to develop a vaccine specifically for the HIV subtype C strain that is prevalent in southern Africa "and to ensure that once developed, it would be available at an affordable price," Mbewu said.

"We have the biggest problem" in the world, Mbewu said on the sidelines of an international AIDS conference in Cape Town.

"Every emerging country is trying, wants to develop their own capacity to design and develop vaccines — Brazil, Korea," Mbewu said.

But the South Africans are the first to reach the clinical trial stage, though years of testing will be needed.

The field of AIDS vaccine research is so filled with disappointments some activists are questioning the wisdom of continuing such expensive investments, saying the money might be better spent on prevention and education.

Mbewu said the crisis in South Africa more than justifies the expenditure. "With 5.2 million already infected and with hundreds getting infected every day despite all the condom distribution and behavioral education programs, we know that a vaccine really is what we need," he said. □

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Banks report using govt. assistance for loans

By JIM KUHNHENN,
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The internal watchdog overseeing the government's financial bailout is pressing Treasury to seek more information from banks that receive taxpayer assistance, brandishing his own bank survey as evidence that such data can be obtained. More than eight out of 10 banks responding to Special Inspector General Neil Barofsky's survey said money they received from the government had been used for loans or to avoid reduced lending. Fewer than a third of the 360 banks surveyed said their lending levels would have been lower without money from the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program. Banks also reported using the money to provide additional cushions of capital or to buy other institutions. The law that created the bailout fund did not require banks to segregate the government's assistance or to track how it was used, though Congress' intent was to increase loans, either directly or by unclogging credit markets. But there is no process in place to make sure the money is specifically used

to boost lending and there are no consequences for banks that don't use it to that end.

Treasury's top official in charge of the program minimized the significance of Barofsky's survey, saying few conclusions could be drawn from the data.

"Although it might be tempting to do so, it is not possible to say that investment of TARP dollars resulted in particular loans, investments or other activities by the recipient," Assistant Treasury Secretary Herbert Allison wrote in response to the Barofsky's audit.

Treasury conducts its own, more limited lending survey of 21 large banks. In its latest survey, released on Wednesday, Treasury reported that outstanding loan balances were flat in May and that the banks reported modest growth in new loan originations.

Even Barofsky cautioned that in his survey banks did not quantify the amount of new lending or the incremental difference in lending attributable to the bailout funds. As a result, Barofsky said there was not enough data to obtain an aggregate amount

of new lending caused by the taxpayer infusions.

But Barofsky said banks receiving infusions are likely to budget how they would use the money and be able to indicate generally what the bank was able to do that it would not have done without the assistance.

"Treasury's decision to reject this information just because the bank may not be able to trace the exact dollars ignores this common sense view," Barofsky wrote in his report, being released Monday.

It recommended that Treasury require bailout recipients to submit periodic reports on their use of the TARP money and to detail actions they took that they would have been unable to undertake without the government aid.

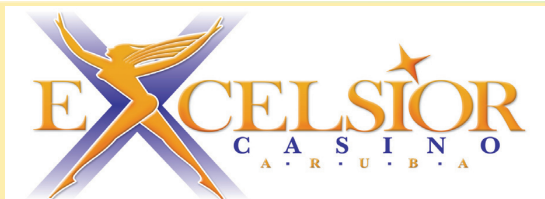
The exchange illustrates continuing tensions between Treasury officials and Barofsky, whose position was mandated by Congress when it approved the massive program last fall. While Treasury has applied some previous Barofsky suggestions, the inspector general and Treasury have clashed in the past over access to certain data and over Treasury's reluctance to collect data from all banks. Barofsky's survey covered 364 financial institutions that had completed funding agreements with Treasury through Jan. 31. As of last month, the Treasury has provided about \$330 billion to more than 600 financial institutions from the TARP through a capital purchase program. TARP has also been used to

pump billions of dollars into the insurance conglomerate American International Group and to automakers General Motors and Chrysler.

Some banks have paid the government back and Treasury says it has about \$127 billion available in the fund.

Thirty-two of the institutions surveyed by Barofsky have since repaid the government, including Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, State Street, JPMorgan Chase, and Bank of New York Mellon.

Many banks submitted the data under claims of confidentiality. Barofsky, in his report, said he was reviewing those claims and intended to make the responses — with redactions where legally necessary — public sometime next month. □



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'Potter' conjures up \$159.7 million in 5 days



Actors (L-R) Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, and Rupert Grint arrive for the premiere of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" in New York July 9, 2009. REUTERS/Jamie Fine

By DAVID GERMAIN,
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — Harry Potter continues to work box-office alchemy, turning his latest movie adventure into an overnight blockbuster.

The sixth installment, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," took in \$79.5 million domestically over opening weekend and \$159.7 million since debuting last Wednesday, according to estimates from distributor Warner Bros. on Sunday.

The movie also took in \$237 million overseas since Wednesday in 54 countries, bringing its worldwide total to \$396.7 million.

With some of the best reviews of any "Harry Potter" movie, "Half-Blood Prince" was off to the fastest overall start in franchise history.

The sixth movie about the young wizard came in \$20 million ahead of the last movie, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," which grossed \$139.7 million domestically in its first five days two years ago.

The new film had the second-highest start ever for a movie premiering on Wednesday, trailing the \$200 million five-day opening for last month's "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen."

"Half-Blood Prince" already has surpassed the \$157.3 million "Order of the Phoenix"

pulled in during its entire first week. By the end of its seventh day Tuesday, "Half-Blood Prince" will be in the \$180 million range on its way to becoming the franchise's first \$300 million domestic smash since the original movie, 2001's "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," said Dan Fellman, Warner head of distribution.

The audience was a bit older for the new movie, with more elder teens turning out to see Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and pals Hermione (Emma Watson) and Ron (Rupert Grint) as they deal with adult concerns such as heartache, jealousy and romantic triangles.

Fans have grown up with the franchise, from young readers whose parents had to debate whether the early movies might be too intense for their children to see.

"When the first movie came out, they fought to go. The mother was like, well, should I take them, should I not take them?" Fellman said. "Now they're driving themselves to this and going to the midnight show."

Sacha Baron Cohen's mock documentary "Bruno" plummeted after its No. 1 debut the previous weekend. The Universal Pictures comedy fell to fourth-place with \$8.4 million, down a whopping 73 percent from its \$30.6 million opening.

Crowd-pleasing movies typically dip 50 percent or less in their second weekends. But "Bruno" has had mixed reviews and failed to earn the audience buzz that made a \$128 million hit out of Baron Cohen's 2006 comedy "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan."

After 10 days in release, "Bruno" has climbed to \$49.6 million and will finish far below \$100 million domestically.

While "Harry Potter" had a healthy start, the overall box office plunged compared to the same weekend last year, when the Batman juggernaut "The Dark Knight" had its record opening weekend of \$158.4 million.

The top-12 movies this weekend combined for less than that, taking in \$153.9 million, down 39 percent from a year ago.

"We got kind of slaughtered even with the 'Potter' movie, but we knew that was going to happen," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "When one movie last year makes more than what the top-12 movies did this year, you're going to have a down weekend."

Fox Searchlight's romantic comedy "500 Days of Summer," starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel, got off to a big

start in limited release with \$837,588 in 27 theaters. That amounted to an average of \$31,022 a cinema, compared to \$18,376 in 4,325 theaters for "Half-Blood Prince."

A hit with critics, "500 Days of Summer" expands gradually into wide release over the next few weekends.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. "Harry Potter and the Half-

Blood Prince," \$79.5 million.

2. "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs," \$17.7 million.

3. "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," \$13.8 million.

4. "Bruno," \$8.4 million.

5. "The Hangover," \$8.32 million.

6. "The Proposal," \$8.3 million.

7. "Public Enemies," \$7.6 million.

8. "Up," \$3.1 million.

9. "My Sister's Keeper," \$2.8 million.

10. "I Love You, Beth Cooper," \$2.7 million. □



FILE - In this Monday, July 6, 2009 file photo, Paula Abdul is shown during the taping of her show 'Drop Dead Diva' in a studio in Peachtree City, Ga. According to a Los Angeles Times report, Abdul's new manager David Sonenberg says he doesn't have a proposal for a new contract for Abdul and says it doesn't appear she'll be back on 'American Idol.'

(AP Photo/John Bazemore, File)

Report: Abdul's return to 'American Idol' doubtful

NEW YORK — Paula Abdul's (ab-DOOL') new manager says she may not be returning to "American Idol."

According to a Los Angeles Times report, David Sonenberg says he doesn't have a proposal for a new contract for Abdul. He says it doesn't appear she'll be back.

Sonenberg began representing Abdul a few weeks ago.

Auditions for the ninth season of the highly rated Fox talent competition begin next month.

Abdul said recently she'd been invited to remain as an "American Idol" judge and was optimistic about negotiating a new contract.

Earlier this year, Fox entertainment president Kevin Reilly called Abdul "an integral part of the show."

The other "American Idol" judges are Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson and newcomer Kara DioGuardi (KA'-ruh dee-oh-GWAHR'-dee). □

The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars



Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the stars. The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers

patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting.

The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd pleasers.

True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly-decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp



a pure taste of heaven!

The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon.

Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a

delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of you favorite song. Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. www.manchebo.com steakhouse

Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price. The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale.

Posing with Angelo the Italian maitre D' at Giorgio's, Mr and Mrs. Klaus, from Pennsylvania, 2nd time repeaters in Aruba at the Manchebo, the trip was a birthday present from him to her and since they are celebrating their 40th anniversary in November, they are already thinking about coming back, they enjoyed Menu Turistico and recommend it wholeheartedly!

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa deserves recognition as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace,

raising the bar to a must-visit, must-try status.

The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

From Sun-Sational Salads, to Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical &

frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.



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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

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healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge. The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a **lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar**, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables

may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal. For more information or to make reservations please call 586-4686.

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Officials: Health care proposal a work in progress

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Administration officials defended President Barack Obama's broad health care proposals on Sunday and urged a skeptical public not to judge the Democrats' overhaul until Congress writes a final version.

Facing independent budget predictions that contradict the White House's rhetoric, officials sought to refute Republican objections to massive changes in how Americans receive health care. They emphasized that Congress has not yet settled on an outline for health care legislation and reiterated Obama's desire for a bipartisan approach.

"This is a work in progress," Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said, trying to calm nervous lawmakers whose re-elections could hinge on the legislation. "More will

be done. The House and the Senate are committed to working with the president to get this done."

The United States is the only developed nation that does not have a comprehensive national health care plan for all its citizens, and Obama campaigned on a promise to offer affordable health care to all Americans. However, the recession and a deepening budget deficit have made it difficult to win support for costly new programs.

"The House has one approach. We put forward a different approach. The Senate is considering yet more options," White House budget director Peter Orszag said. "The key thing is we need to get there in a way that is deficit neutral."

Paying for the health care plan remains the major challenge, underscored by a nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office report that emerging House legislation

would increase deficits by \$239 billion over a decade.

"I don't follow why we've got to spend another \$1.5 trillion to \$2 trillion, most people estimate, on top of the \$2.5 trillion we're already spending in this country and yet still have, under one estimate, at least 33 million people without health insurance," said Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch. "I mean, these are things that are real serious problems."

Democrats insisted the budget analysis ignores savings and Obama's pledge not to add red ink to the federal ledger.

"It's clear that they're working with different assumptions than the White House and the Congress is," said Rep. Charlie Rangel, the chairman of the House tax-writing committee.

Even so, the politics of adding to the deficit or raising taxes is tricky.

Continued on Page B4



In this photo provided by NBC News, Department of Health and Human Services chief Kathleen Sebelius appears on "Meet the Press" at the NBC studios in Washington, Sunday, July 19, 2009.

Associated Press

Idaho town prays for return of captured U.S. soldier

JOHN MILLER

Associated Press Writer

HAILEY, Idaho (AP) — Friends and family of an American soldier who was captured in Afghanistan prayed for his safe return Sunday, shaken by the image of the frightened young private in a Taliban video posted online.

Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl, 23, was serving with an Alaska-based infantry regiment earlier this month when he vanished, just five months after arriving in Afghanistan. He was serving at a base near the border with Pakistan in an area known to be a Taliban stronghold.

Bergdahl is from Hailey, a town of about 7,000 people in central Idaho where he worked as a barista and was active in ballet. A sign hangs in the window of Zaney's River Street Coffee House says "Get Bowe Back," and a message inside asked customers to "Join all of us at Zaney's holding light for our friend."



This video frame grab taken from a Taliban propaganda video released Saturday, July 18, 2009 shows Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl, 23, of Ketchum, Idaho, who went missing from his base in eastern Afghanistan June 30.

Associated Press

Bergdahl's family issued a statement asking people to keep the soldier in their thoughts and prayers, but told The Associated Press that the family was requesting media respect their privacy.

Neighbors and others in the community have known for weeks that Bergdahl had been

captured, but said the family urged them not to talk about the kidnapping out of fear that publicity would compromise his safety. Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter told the AP that he had been working to keep the soldier's name quiet until it was officially released.

Continued on Next Page



A view of the Shepherd Hotel in East Jerusalem, Sunday, July 19, 2009. The U.S. has demanded that Israel suspend a planned housing project on the grounds of the hotel in east Jerusalem, senior Israeli officials said Sunday, the latest sign of a deepening conflict between the two allies over Israeli settlements.

Associated Press

Israel rejects U.S. call to halt Jerusalem project

AMY TEIBEL

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel on Sunday rejected a U.S. demand to suspend a planned housing project in east Jerusalem, threatening to further complicate an unusually tense standoff with its strongest ally over settlement construction.

Israeli officials said the country's ambassador to Washington, Michael Oren, was summoned to the State Department over the weekend and told that a project made up of 20 apartments developed by an American millionaire should not go ahead.

Settlements built on captured lands claimed by the Palestinians have emerged as a major sticking point in relations between Israel and the Obama administration because of their potential to disrupt Mideast peacemaking.

Continued on Page B6



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IDAHO

Continued from Page B1

In the video posted Saturday on a Web site pointed out by the Taliban, Bergdahl says his name and his hometown. The Pentagon confirmed his identity Sunday.

“We hope and pray for our son’s safe return to his comrades and then to our family, and we

appreciate all the support and expressions of sympathy shown to us by our family members, our friends and others across the nation,” Bob Bergdahl, the soldier’s father, said in a statement issued through the Department of Defense.

The family, described by neighbors as deeply private, lives six miles west of Hailey



The childhood home of Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl, taken prisoner nearly three weeks ago in Afghanistan by members of a Taliban group, sits in the high sage desert just off a gravel road about six miles west of Hailey, Idaho on Sunday July 19, 2009.

on a remote gravel county road. The humble home has a metal roof and several outbuildings, and vehicles parked in front. The family has chained and locked the front gate, and a small cardboard sign says: “No visitors.” Neighbors are abiding by the family’s wishes not to comment on the record about Bergdahl’s capture, but described the 23-year-old as an “adventurous” soul who was educated at home, danced ballet and took part in a sport fencing club, the Sun Valley Swords. One of the directors of the Sun Valley Ballet School in Ketchum said Bergdahl performed with the group for four or five years until about 2008.

“He’s athletic,” Jill Brennan said. “He just had a knack for it. He’s a wonderful young man.” In the 28-minute video, Bergdahl said he was “scared I won’t be able to go home.” He said he was lagging behind

a patrol when he was captured, which conflicts with earlier military accounts that indicated he walked off the base with three Afghans.

It wasn’t clear who initially captured Bergdahl, but the U.S. command in Afghanistan said he was being held by the Taliban and condemned the video as a violation of international law.

“I’m glad to see he appears unharmed, but again, this is a Taliban propaganda video,” spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Christine Sidenstricker said. “They are exploiting the soldier in violation of international law.”

With a shaved head and dressed in a nondescript, gray outfit, Bergdahl was shown eating at one point and sitting cross-legged. He choked up when discussing his family and his hope to marry his girlfriend. “I have a very, very good family that I love back home in

America,” Bergdahl said.

The Pentagon identified his hometown as Ketchum, which is about half the size of Hailey and about 12 miles north. His family says he grew up in Blaine County, closer to Hailey.

Hailey is a mix of a working-class community and resort town, just down the road from upscale Sun Valley, a ski resort that’s home to celebrities including Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tom Hanks and Sen. John Kerry. Bruce Willis maintains a vacation home in the area and owns local businesses.

Bergdahl is a member of 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, based at Fort Richardson, Alaska.

He entered the Army in June 2008 and was trained in Fort Benning, Georgia, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Allen, spokesman for Fort Richardson. Bergdahl reported for duty in Alaska in October, and deployed to Afghanistan in February.

In the video, Bergdahl said the date was July 14; it’s clear the video was made no earlier because Bergdahl repeated an exaggerated Taliban claim about a Ukrainian helicopter that was shot down that day.

He was interviewed in English and asked his views on the war, which he called extremely hard; his desire to learn more about Islam; and the morale of American soldiers, which he said was low. □



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San Francisco train operator's actions come under scrutiny

JASON DEAREN

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The operator of a light-rail train that crashed and injured dozens of passengers in San Francisco came under scrutiny Sunday as federal investigators tried to figure out why he inexplicably turned off the automatic controls moments before the collision.

National Transportation Safety Board investigator Ted Turpin did not know why the operator switched the controls from automatic to manual in a tunnel near the West Portal Station.

Had he kept the autopilot on, the train would have slowed down before arriving at

the station and likely not careened into a parked train while going 23 mph, Turpin said. He added that the operator never engaged the emergency brake.

The crash injured 48 people, four seriously, in the latest in a series of commuter train wrecks in recent months in the U.S. None of the injuries were life-threatening.

Two Los Angeles-based NTSB investigators are working with transit officials to interview passengers, witnesses and focus on assessing the condition of the train tracks, signal systems and the structural integrity of the train cars involved. Also, investigators had not

finished looking at whether the signaling system played a role.

The driver was hospitalized after the crash and a drug test had been administered, which is standard procedure for crashes.

Investigators will also be looking at whether cell phone use played a factor in the crash, as is standard in all train accident investigations, Turpin said. The crash is the fourth major U.S. subway or commuter rail accident in the last 10 months.

In September, a commuter rail train crashed with a freight rail in Los Angeles and 25 people died. The crash was blamed on an



Officials look over the trains involved in a two train Muni crash at the West Portal Station in San Francisco on Saturday July 18, 2009.

Associated Press

engineer on the commuter rail texting on a cell phone. About 50 people were injured in Boston in May when a trolley rear-ended another trolley. The conductor admitted to texting when the crash took place. And last month, a subway train rear-ended

another in Washington during rush hour, killing nine people.

The light rail is part of a mass-transit system that carries more than 200 million passengers a year in San Francisco, including on the city's famous street cars and trolleys. □

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House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., center, flanked by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., left, and House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., gestures during a news conference on health care reform, Friday, July 17, 2009, on Capitol Hill in Washington. Working day and night, House Democrats advanced major health care legislation through two committees on Friday and struggled to line up the votes necessary to prevail in a third.

HEALTH CARE

Continued from Page B1

Obama officials have refused to rule out a tax on the wealthiest Americans and oppose a tax on employer-provided health care benefits. They also want the Senate and the House to pass separate bills before an August recess, leaving reconciliation of their differences for September or later. White

House officials grudgingly accept that such a timetable — which has shifted from being a demand to more of a goal — might force them into policy compromises. “What we have said is this bill has to be deficit neutral,” said Orszag, a former top budget chief for Congress. “We think there are better ways of obtaining additional revenue, and we have to let this legislative

process play out.” But it won’t come cheap. That means increased taxes and political opposition. Republicans paint Obama’s proposals as a massive tax that would leave small businesses wounded, employers shifting away from private plans toward a government-based system, and workers without coverage. Some GOP members have also cautioned that the legislation could fund abortions, a fear crucial to the social conservatives who hold sway inside the

Republican Party and a proposition Orszag would not rule out.

A key Republican, however, warned his party not to scuttle health care legislation over abortion.

“No matter what your views are on abortion, you shouldn’t ask people to use their tax dollars if they think that abortion is taking a life,” said Sen. Judd Gregg. “I would hate to see the health care debate go down over that issue. ... Hopefully we won’t get ourselves wrapped around the wheel of abortion in this debate.”

Obama’s advisers have argued that overhauling health care is vital to the nation’s long-term economic recovery.

About 50 million of America’s 300 million people are without health insurance. The government provides coverage for the poor and elderly, but most Americans rely on private insurance, usually received through their employers. However, not all employers provide insurance and not everyone can afford to buy it. With unemployment rising, many Americans are losing their health insurance when they lose their jobs.

The insurance industry, which fought President Bill Clinton’s health care effort in 1993 and 1994,

is beginning to run its first TV ads of this year’s health care fight.

The multimillion-dollar campaign, being aired nationally on cable stations, restates the industry’s support for an overhaul that provides universal coverage and its offer to cover people who are already sick. The ad campaign, which starts Monday, does not mention the insurers’ strong opposition to creating a government-run insurance option.

Seeking to prod colleagues, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy wrote an essay for Newsweek magazine about the policy that has guided his decades in the Senate.

“Unless we act now, within a few years, 55 million Americans could be left without coverage even as the economy recovers,” wrote the Massachusetts Democrat, who is being treated for brain cancer. “All Americans should be required to have insurance. For those who can’t afford the premiums, we can provide subsidies.”

Sebelius appeared on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” Orszag spoke with “Fox News Sunday” and CNN’s “State of the Union.” Hatch and Rangel appeared on CBS’ “Face the Nation.” Gregg also appeared on the Fox program. □

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Friend: Slain woman, accused husband had split

By KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press Writer

FAYETTEVILLE, Tenn. — A southern Tennessee woman and her husband, who is accused of killing her and five other people in two states, had been having marital troubles and were not living together, a man who says he knew the couple told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Jacob Shaffer, 30, faces six counts of homicide. His wife, 38-year-old Traci Shaffer, her son, Devin Brooks, and neighbor, Robert Berber, both 16, were found dead Saturday in her home in rural Fayetteville, said Tennessee Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman Kristin Helm. The bodies of Traci Shaffer's brother, Chris Hall, 34, and father Billy Hall, 57, were found in a home across the road. Jacob Shaffer is also accused in a killing at a business in Huntsville, Ala., about 30 miles south.

The Shaffers were no longer sharing a home but had not filed for separation, said 29-year-old James Wilson, who was gathering belongings from Traci's home in Lincoln County. He said he is the

boyfriend of Shaffer's sister, Jennifer.

The Shaffers had a 4-year-old daughter, and Wilson said police told him the girl was home during the killings but wasn't hurt. Wilson told the AP that he met Jacob Shaffer when they were installing drywall, but they had stopped being friends about a year and a half ago.

Shaffer was still installing drywall around Huntsville, and Billy Hall had been driving him back and forth to work before the couple split, Wilson said. The sixth victim was found at Hall Cultured Marble Granite, which Hall's family owns, Wilson said. The business was closed Sunday.

"Her dad done everything he could for Jacob," Wilson said. "I have no idea why he walked across the street to her daddy and her brother.

Her daddy never done anything wrong."

Helm said Shaffer's motive was domestic, but authorities have not released a chronology of the killings or many details, including how the six died.

Wilson said the couple had "gotten into it" as far as

fighting, but he never would have expected such violence.

"As far as seeing him do something like this, you just can't see it," Wilson said.

Traci's slain son and a 9-year-old daughter, who wasn't home during the killings, were from a previous relationship, Wilson said.

Jacob Shaffer of Fayetteville was being held without bond at the Lincoln County Jail and no lawyer for him was listed.

Lincoln County Sheriff Murray Blackwelder said Saturday that his department was investigating three crime scenes and would not confirm the causes of death in what he called "horrendous" killings and "one of the worst crimes Lincoln County has seen." Autopsies were being performed Sunday and Wilson said police wouldn't tell him how the family was killed.

Helm said the family members died Friday night or early Saturday and that Jacob Shaffer was sitting on the porch of one of the houses when authorities first arrived. Huntsville police said information from him led them to the body at the



This image provided by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation shows a booking photo of Jacob Shaffer of Fayetteville, Tenn.

Associated Press

granite business. They have not released the name of the sixth victim.

At Lincoln Memorial Presbyterian Church, just up the road from the crime scenes, members discussed what little they knew about the killings.

"It sent cold chills down my spine," Mary Jane Thompson said of the deaths about four miles from her home.

Killing two teenagers was especially difficult for her to understand.

"I don't see why anybody would want to kill children," Thompson said. "It's just so

sad."

A neighbor said the family had moved into the homes earlier this year. Children's toys lay in the yard of one after police finished investigating near the town of 7,000 people about 90 miles south of Nashville near the Tennessee-Alabama border.

Wilson refused a request to talk to Traci Shaffer's sister, saying she was devastated by the loss.

"She's not handling it and I can't blame her," he said. "What can you say to someone who has lost everybody?" □

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Palestinian workers walk next to a building at a construction site in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Maaleh Adumim, near Jerusalem, Monday, June 22, 2009. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in defying U.S. pressure to freeze construction in West Bank settlements, says new homes must go up to accommodate settlers' growing families. But some 40 percent of the population growth in settlements came from people who moved there and not from growing families, according to the government's latest statistics. In the meantime, more than 5,000 new apartments have been completed over the past three years, Central Bureau of Statistics figures show.

Associated Press

JERUSALEM PROJECT

Continued from Page B1

Although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently yielded to heavy U.S. pressure to endorse the establishment of a Palestinian state, he has resisted American demands for an immediate freeze on settlement expansion.

On Sunday, Netanyahu told his Cabinet there would be no limits on Jewish construction anywhere in "unified Jerusalem."

"We cannot accept the fact that Jews wouldn't be entitled to live and buy anywhere in Jerusalem," Netanyahu declared, calling Israeli sovereignty over the entire city "indisputable."

"I can only imagine what would happen if someone suggested Jews could not live in certain neighborhoods in New York, London, Paris or Rome. There would certainly be a major international outcry," Netanyahu said.

The international community considers Jewish neighborhoods in east Jerusalem to be settlements and an obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking because they complicate a possible division of the city. Israel does not regard them as settlements because it annexed east Jerusalem after capturing the area in 1967. The annexation has not been recognized internationally. East Jerusalem is an especially volatile issue because it is the site of key Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy sites. The Palestinians want the

traditionally Arab sector of the city to be the capital of their future state.

Speaking Sunday in New Delhi, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the administration was trying to reach an agreement with the Israelis on settlements. "The negotiations are intense. They are ongoing," she said.

Nearly 300,000 Israelis live in West Bank settlements, in addition to about 180,000 Israelis living in Jewish neighborhoods in east Jerusalem.

The new Jerusalem project is being funded by Irving Moskowitz, a millionaire bingo magnate from Florida and supporter of Israeli settlement in east Jerusalem who has funded similar construction projects in the past. Moskowitz purchased the Shepherd Hotel in 1985 and plans to tear it down and build apartments in its place.

The approval, granted by the Jerusalem municipality earlier this month, allows for the construction of 20 apartments plus a three-level underground parking lot. The Jerusalem municipality issued a statement saying the purchase was legal.

Also at the Cabinet meeting, the head of Israel's Shin Bet internal security service, Yuval Diskin, said both the Western-backed administration of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the militant Islamic Hamas were carrying out "covert activity" in east Jerusalem to stop Jews acquiring property there.

An official present at the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with Cabinet rules, did not elaborate on what the activity entailed but quoted Diskin as saying that hardline Egyptian cleric Sheik Youssef al-Qaradawi earmarked \$25 million to be funneled to Hamas activists in Jerusalem. Al-Qaradawi is a well-known figure in the Arab world and a regular on the satellite Al-Jazeera network. Diskin told the Cabinet that the money was to be used by Hamas to buy apartments and plots of land and "build charitable institutions to broaden its base in the city," the official said. Diskin did not provide evidence. Israel considers Hamas a terrorist group and bars it from operating in Jerusalem. Abbas aide Rafiq Husseini dismissed the report. "We wish there was Arab money to buy threatened houses," he told The Associated Press, "but that's not the case." Al-Qaradawi could not be reached for comment.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said Jewish expansion in east Jerusalem jeopardizes peace efforts. The Palestinians have refused to restart peace talks until Israel halts all settlement expansion.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy had no immediate comment.

Peace talks are also hampered by the division among Palestinians. Abbas' government operates in the West Bank, while the Gaza Strip is ruled by Hamas. □



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PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2	daily:	6:00	9:00		
		matinee:	12:00	2:55	late show:	11:50
R	THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123	daily:		7:10	9:30	
		matinee:		late show:	11:45	
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PG-13	THE PROPOSAL	daily:	4:30	6:45	9:00	
		matinee:	12:10	2:20	late show:	11:15
PG-13	LAND OF THE LOST	daily:		10:00		
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		matinee:		late show:	12:10	
PG	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily:	4:00	6:00	8:00	3D
		matinee:	12:00	2:00	late show:	
PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2	daily:	5:40	8:30		
		matinee:	12:05	2:50	late show:	11:25
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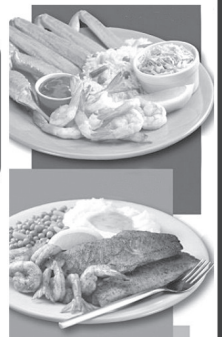
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Honduras crisis talks end without compromise

MARIANELA JIMENEZ

Associated Press Writer

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Talks on ending the leadership crisis in Honduras broke off Sunday after the interim government declared “unacceptable” a proposed compromise that included the return of ousted President Manuel Zelaya to serve out his term.

The two camps’ positions remain far apart after a fourth day of negotiations, but the mediator, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, promised renewed efforts to seek a solution and avoid bloodshed in the Central American country.

“It was not possible to reach a satisfactory agreement. The Zelaya delegation fully accepted my proposal, but not that of Don Roberto Micheletti,” Arias said, referring to the interim president sworn in by congress after the June 28 coup.

Arias said he will spend the next three days “working much harder to see if we can reach an agreement, because what is the alternative to dialogue?”

On Saturday, Arias proposed a plan that would let Zelaya serve out the final months of his term, move up elections by one month to late October, grant a general amnesty and include representatives of the main political parties in a reconciliation government.

Arias, the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize laureate for brokering an end to Central America’s civil wars, had urged patience from Zelaya and flexibility from the interim government, which has ruled since the military whisked Zelaya out of the country at gunpoint.

The Micheletti government endorsed several of Arias’ proposals on Sunday — but Foreign Relations Secretary Carlos Lopez called Zelaya’s return “unacceptable.” Instead, the interim government offered to create a truth commission to “let the Honduran people and the international community see all the acts that led to the current situation,” according to letter signed by Lopez.

Zelaya, who previously vowed to return to Honduras to set up a parallel government if the talks failed, told The

Associated Press that he was willing to leave “the door open for diplomacy and dialogue.”

His aide, Allan Fajardo, has said that Zelaya planned to go back before Friday, the date suggested by Arias for his return.

The Honduran military thwarted Zelaya’s first attempt to fly home on July 5 by blocking the runway at the airport in the capital, Tegucigalpa.

Zelaya’s ouster is a major test of Latin American democracy and of the Obama administration’s policy toward the region. The U.S., United Nations and Organization of American States have demanded that Zelaya be returned to power, and no foreign government has recognized Micheletti.

Honduran labor groups supporting Zelaya called for a general strike Thursday and



Costa Rica’s President Oscar Arias, center, stands with members of the delegation of Honduras’ interim President Roberto Micheletti and ousted Honduras’ President Manuel Zelaya delegation after negotiations in San Jose, Sunday, July 19, 2009.

Associated Press

Friday. And in Nicaragua, Zelaya’s Foreign Minister Patricia Rodas called for a massive march if mediation fails. She attended the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Sandinista revolution there on

Sunday. Honduras’ Supreme Court issued an arrest warrant for Zelaya before the coup, ruling that his effort to hold a referendum on calling for a constitutional assembly was illegal. □

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Mauritania coup chief wins vote amid fraud claims



Gen. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, left, speaks to the press shortly after being declared the victor in the previous day's presidential election, in central Nouakchott, Mauritania Sunday, July 19, 2009.

TODD PITMAN

Associated Press Writer

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP) — Nearly a year after seizing power in a military putsch that ousted Mauritania's first freely elected leader, Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz won the presidency Sunday in a landslide vote his opponents decried as a fraudulent "electoral coup."

The poll was officially held to restore civilian rule, but critics

Associated Press

say little is likely to change in this moderate Islamic republic on the western edge of the sand-swept Sahara: Power will remain in the hands of the 52-year-old retired general who spent his life in the military and resigned only to legitimize his grasp on it by running for president.

"We've gone backward to an era of dictatorship," said Boubacar Ould Messaoud, who heads an organization that

fight a tradition of slavery that continues here despite being banned.

"Aziz is no democrat," Messaoud said. "He is a soldier, and like all soldiers, he should stay in his barracks. There will be no difference between this regime and the junta" he ruled.

Aziz, however, styles himself as a defender of democracy who staged a coup only to prevent the country from reverting to a past epoch of repressive rule — which he helped end with an earlier putsch, in 2005.

The final result announced late Sunday by Interior Minister Mohamed Ould Rzeizim gave Aziz 52 percent of the vote, enabling him to avoid a runoff.

The count must be validated by the constitutional court before it becomes final.

Parliament speaker Messaoud Ould Boulkheir came in second with 16 percent, while veteran opposition leader

Ahmed Ould Daddah was third with 13 percent, Rzeizim said.

The main opposition candidates rejected the final outcome even before it was announced, saying the count had been "prefabricated." In a statement, they accused Aziz of carrying out "an electoral coup d'etat."

"We refuse to recognize these results and call on the international community to create a commission to investigate to expose this manipulation," Boulkheir told reporters.

In a victory speech, Aziz said his staff and supporters had "committed no fraud." He said the vote could not have been rigged because results from each polling station had to be approved and signed by rival parties before being forwarded to the electoral commission headquarters.

Several hundred international observers are monitoring the vote. But key delegations

from the African Union and French speaking countries have released their findings.

Lawyer Bouhoube Yni of the nation's independent electoral commission — whose 15 members represent the rival political parties — said no serious complaints or proof of fraud had been received so far.

Messaoud spokeswoman Amal Mint Abdallahi said the opposition was preparing to formally submit its complaints. Among them: allegations Aziz's camp handed out ballots pre-marked in his favor and paid voters to cast them; the voters then returned with empty ballots taken from polling stations to prove they had done so, she said.

Abdallahi also alleged Aziz's camp fabricated false identity cards and illegally inflated voter lists. After nightfall, Aziz supporters sent red and white fireworks bursting into the air above Nouakchott in celebration. □




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11,000 Canadian flee forest fires

KELOWNA, British Columbia (AP) — About 11,000 residents of a subdivision threatened by a forest fire in southern British Columbia have been evacuated, officials said Sunday.

Helicopters, air tankers and firefighters were attacking the 3.5-square-kilometer (1.35-square-mile) blaze raging behind the Glenrosa subdivision, some 275 kilometers (170 miles) east of Vancouver.

“You had to get out. We just did what we were told. We just picked up our belongings and got out,” Wilf Carey said as he went in to register at the evacuee center.

Carey’s house was among

6,500 homes deemed in danger. At least three homes were destroyed, but no casualties were reported.

Another 6,000 people in the West Kelowna subdivision were told to be on evacuation alert, according to updated figures released by Jeanne Rucker, of the British Columbia Forest Service.

Hotel rooms throughout the area quickly booked up Saturday night, leaving no vacancies.

It’s not clear what caused the blaze, though Assistant Fire Chief Lou Wilde hinted strongly it may have been human-caused. “I’m quite certain lightning wasn’t a factor,” Wilde said.

A second fire was burning



A helicopter drops water on a wildfire burning on the side of a mountain in Kelowna, B.C., on Sunday July 19, 2009. The number of B.C. Okanagan residents forced to flee their homes was getting larger Sunday as a wind-whipped wildfire raged on the doorstep of a densely populated Kelowna subdivision.

Associated Press

about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) north at the nearby Rose Valley Reservoir, where another 1,500 homes were under evacuation alert.

A third fire, further north at Fintry, was also burning. In 2003, lightning strikes triggered a fire that scorched 250 square kilometres (96

square miles), destroyed more than 200 homes and caused millions of dollars in property damage.

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Watson squanders his chance at a historic win

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP)

— Tom Watson stood over an 8-foot par putt Sunday evening on the final hole of a mystical British Open, one stroke away from becoming the oldest major champion in history. For the first time all week, he showed his 59-year-old nerves, missing it and ultimately losing the tournament to Stewart Cink in a playoff.

Cink, who made a 12-foot birdie on the final hole of regulation, took advantage of Watson's missed opportunity and overwhelmed him in the four-hole playoff to win by six shots. Watson stood on the 18th tee one last time, blinking away tears. He wasn't alone in his sadness. Thousands of fans who filled the grandstands for the first time all week sat in stunned silence.

The loudest cheer was for the player who won the silver



Stewart Cink of the US, left, holds the trophy as Tom Watson of the US, right, looks on, after winning a playoff following the final round of the British Open Golf championship, at the Turnberry golf course, Scotland, Sunday, July 19, 2009.

medal.

Cink, who was never atop the leaderboard all week until Watson missed the winning putt, was flawless in the playoff and finished with two birdies. As he gazed at the fabled claret jug, he paid his due to Watson, the modern day King of the Links.

"I don't even know what to say," Cink said. "My hat's off to him. He turned back the clock. Just did a great job. I speak for all the rest of the people here, too."

Cink's birdie gave him 69, and at 2-under 278, it looked as though he would be the runner-up.

"It was almost," Watson said. "The dream almost came true." Tied with three other players along the back nine on a breezy afternoon, Watson two-putted for par on the tough 16th hole, where his challengers all made bogey to fall back.

Associated Press

Continued on Page B12



In this May 22, 2009, file photo, Michael Vick arrives at federal court surrounded by the media for a meeting with his parole officer in Norfolk, Va. Michael Vick's federal dogfighting sentence is scheduled to end Monday and that is also when he will go back on trial - facing a whole new series of judgments. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, teams, fans and sponsors are among those who will weigh in on Vick's future.

Associated Press

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON

(AP)

— Michael Vick's federal dogfighting sentence is scheduled to end Monday and that is also when the former NFL superstar will go back on trial — facing a whole new series of judgments.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, teams, fans and sponsors are among those who will weigh in on Vick's future.

First and foremost, Goodell must decide whether Vick's suspension will end and, if so, when — allowing the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback

Vick's legal sentence ends, more judgments await

a chance to play in the league again. Goodell is expected to act fairly quickly, so Vick and teams know his status for the coming season. Training camps for veterans start opening next weekend.

There has been communication between Vick's camp and the league about the process, although neither side is making substantive comments publicly about where things stand.

Vick has kept silent and probably will continue to until Goodell makes an announcement. While Goodell is declining interview requests on this topic, his position is fairly well-outlined: He wants a face-to-face meeting, and Vick must show serious contrition.

"Michael's going to have to

demonstrate to myself and the general public and to a lot of people: Did he learn anything from this experience? Does he regret what happened?" Goodell said in May. "Does he feel that he can be a positive influence going forward? Those are questions that I would like to see when I sit with him."

Once Goodell's ruling is rendered, NFL clubs will have to determine what, if any, interest they have in Vick. Among the questions teams will ponder: What kind of shape is he in? What position should he play? What type of public relations hit might he bring? "Teams certainly are going to want to know: Where is his mind-set? Going forward, is he going to be a good citizen? You'd interview

him and hope you get a good feel in the interview. That's the first thing," former Washington and Houston general manager Charley Casserly said. "The second thing is: You've got a guy two years out of football, with no structured conditioning program."

NFL teams are allowed to initiate talks with Vick because the Falcons released him in June. He was cut less than five years after signing a \$130 million, 10-year contract.

Vick's agent, Joel Segal, would not discuss whether teams have been in contact about his client.

An AP survey of the 31 other NFL clubs in November found that at least a half-dozen teams would not shut the door on the possibility of acquiring Vick at some stage. □

Unbeaten Happ pitches Phillies past Marlins 5-0

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — Unbeaten rookie J.A. Happ won again, and so did the Philadelphia Phillies. Happ allowed five hits in seven innings, and the Phillies extended their longest winning streak since 2006 to eight games by beating the Florida Marlins 5-0 Sunday. Happ (7-0) also singled with

two outs to start a three-run rally in the second inning. Jimmy Rollins had three hits by the third and came within a home run of the cycle, while Raul Ibanez doubled home two runs to help the Phillies complete their second three-game sweep in Miami this season. They've won eight in a row in Miami while outscoring the Marlins 49-18.

Philadelphia won for the 12th time in the past 13 games. The winning streak is the Phillies' longest since they won nine in a row April 30-May 9, 2006. With the sweep, the Phils improved to 29-15 on the road, best in the majors. Florida fell seven games behind Philadelphia in the NL East. Happ, who leads NL rookies in wins, pitched at least seven



Philadelphia Phillies' J.A. Happ delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Florida Marlins, Sunday, July 19, 2009, at Land Shark Stadium in Miami.

Associated Press

Escobar drives in four, Braves top Mets 7-1

By CHARLES ODUM

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — Yunel Escobar had two of his four RBIs in a five-run fifth inning and the Atlanta Braves beat New York 7-1 on Sunday night as the Mets lost yet another player to an injury.

Mets starting pitcher Fernando Nieve left the game in the second inning with a strained right quadriceps.

Escobar hit his ninth homer in the second inning and had a run-scoring single in the fourth to give Atlanta a 2-1 lead. The shortstop delivered a bases-loaded two-run double in the fifth as the Braves stretched the lead to 7-1.

The fourth-place Mets fell nine games back of NL East-leading Philadelphia, their largest deficit since they were nine games out after play on Sept. 29, 2005, according to STATS LLC.

The Braves, who won three of four in the series, moved past Florida into second place in the East, 6 1/2 games behind the surging Phillies.

Braves right-hander Javier Vazquez (7-7) gave up six hits and one run in seven innings. He walked one and struck out five, shutting down New York's paltry offense.

Since June 22, the injury-ravaged Mets have lost 15 times in 24 games and have scored just 74 runs, the fewest in the majors.

Vazquez caught Nieve's high



New York Mets manager Jerry Manuel, right, looks on as pitcher Fernando Nieve is helped onto a cart by trainers during the second inning against the Atlanta Braves in Atlanta, Sunday, July 19, 2009. Nieve injured his right quadriceps.

Associated Press

bouncer with his right hand and threw out Nieve on a close play in the second inning. Nieve then fell to the ground, grabbing his leg in obvious pain. He was driven off the field.

Nieve, who has been filling in for John Maine, will fly with the team to Washington, where the Mets play on Monday, and then continue to New York for an MRI.

Nieve joins New York's long injury list. Gary Sheffield did not play for the second straight game because of cramping in his right hamstring that began Friday night. Mets manager Jerry Manuel said before the game Sheffield is still sore.

The Mets are also without outfielders Carlos Beltran and Fernando Martinez, first

baseman Carlos Delgado, shortstop Jose Reyes, and relievers J.J. Putz and Billy Wagner due to injuries.

Tim Redding (1-4) replaced Nieve and gave up five runs, two earned, on four hits and three walks in three innings.

Martin Prado and Casey Kotchman had RBI singles in the fifth. Chipper Jones drove in another run with a sacrifice fly. The Mets scored their only run in the third. Luis Castillo hit a one-out single and scored on Jeff Francoeur's single.

Braves reliever Mike Gonzalez, who had been out with tendinitis in his left elbow, made his first appearance since July 9. He retired the Mets in order in the eighth. Rafael Soriano added a perfect ninth. □

innings for the fifth start in a row and lowered his ERA to 2.68. Ryan Madson, J.C. Romero, Scott Eyre and Brad Lidge completed the eight-hit shutout.

Andrew Miller (3-5) lasted only 2 2-3 innings for the second game in a row. He allowed six hits, four walks and four runs, and he fell to 0-3 in six career starts against the Phils.

Rollins came into the game 1 for 15 against Miller, but by the third inning he had a single, double and triple.

Rollins struck out in the fifth and hit into a double play in the eighth.

Miller gave up three runs in the second after retiring the first two batters. Happ reached on an infield single, Rollins singled and Shane Victorino loaded the bases with an infield single. Chase Utley fell behind 0-2 but was hit by a pitch to force in a run, and Ibanez doubled to make it 3-0.

Rollins doubled home a run in the third to end Miller's afternoon. □

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Stewart Cink of the US, center, holds up the trophy after winning a playoff following the final round of the British Open Golf championship, at the Turnberry golf course, Scotland, Sunday, July 19, 2009.

WATSON

Continued from Page B10

Then he made an easy birdie on the par-5 17th, giving him a one-shot lead as this unforgettable British Open reached a crescendo.

Associated Press

From the middle of the 18th fairway, Watson hit 8-iron and followed its flight, right at the flag. It bounded through the green, and his putt back up the slope ran 8 feet past the hole. Watson steadied himself over

the par putt, and thousands of fans braced themselves.

All week long, as Watson kept his name atop the leaderboard, there was a feeling that he couldn't hold up over four days and 72 holes. Now, he was 8 feet away from the unthinkable.

The drama ended as the ball wobbled off the blade, obvious that it wasn't struck hard enough. Watson's shoulders slumped.

"I made a lousy putt," he said. "Then in the playoff, it was bad shot after another."

For the first time all week, Watson looked tired. His approach to the first playoff hole, No. 5, tumbled into a pot bunker and led to bogey to fall one shot behind. After a remarkable par save on the par-3 sixth, Watson came undone.

He hooked his tee shot on the 17th into grass so deep it took

him two hacks to get back to the fairway. He three-putted for a double bogey, while Cink played safe and smart for a two-putt birdie and a four-shot lead.

Cink, born two years before Watson won his first claret jug at Carnoustie in 1975, captured his first major and sixth career victory. He will move to No. 9 in the world.

"It's been a surreal experience for me," Cink said. "Not only playing one of my favorite courses and a wonderful tournament, but playing against Tom Watson. This stuff doesn't happen. I grew up watching him on TV, hoping to follow in his footsteps, not playing against him."

Rarely does a major championship end like this one — to polite applause from a gallery of long faces.

Some of these fans were at Turnberry in 1977 when Watson beat Jack Nicklaus in the famous "Duel in the Sun," the signature victory among Watson's eight majors. He just couldn't beat Father Time.

"It was fun to be in the mix again, having kids who are my kids' age saying, 'What are you doing out here?' It was nice showing them you can still play," Watson said. "I'm sure I'll take some good things from it. But it's still a disappointment."

Watson wasn't alone in that disappointment. Three other players had at least a share of the lead in a final round where fortunes shifted with the sea breeze off the Firth of Clyde. Lee Westwood of England had a one-shot lead with four holes to play until making back-to-back bogeys. He battled to the end, however, and made a bold swing from a pot bunker in the 18th fairway. The ball cleared the sodden wall by an inch and somehow reached the front of the green. One shot behind, with Watson

in the fairway behind him, he felt his only hope was to make the 70-foot putt.

He ran it about 8 feet by the hole, then missed the next one and took bogey. Westwood was saddened to see Watson miss the putt for other reasons — he shot 71 and finished one shot out of the playoff.

"Gone from frustration to sickness now," Westwood said.

Chris Wood, missing only an "s" in his name to give the weekend some normalcy after Tiger Woods missed the cut, shot 67 despite a bogey on the last hole. He tied for third with Westwood, finishing nearly two hours before Watson missed the decisive putt.

Mathew Goggin, who played in the final pairing with Watson, also was tied for the lead and had a chance to seize control until badly missing an 8-foot birdie putt on the 13th. He followed with three straight bogeys and shot 73, two shots behind.


Then there was Ross Fisher, not even sure he would play Sunday if his wife had gone into labor. He birdied the first two holes and was two shots ahead until he chopped away in high grass on both sides of the fifth fairway and took a quadruple-bogey 8. Fisher didn't make another birdie the rest of the day and shot 75.


It was the highest winning score in the four Opens held at Turnberry.

The closest Cink had ever come to winning a major was the 2001 U.S. Open at Southern Hills, when he missed an 18-inch bogey putt on the last hole while trying to clear the stage for Retief Goosen, never suspecting Goosen would three-putt from 12 feet. Cink wound up missing the playoff by one shot.

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Alberto Contador wins 15th stage of Tour in Alps



JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

VERBIER, Switzerland (AP) — Lance Armstrong all but conceded Sunday that he cannot beat teammate Alberto Contador at the Tour de France, after the Spanish star blew away the pack and seized the yellow jersey as the race entered the Alps.

Armstrong moved up to second place in the standings after the 15th stage, but lost time to his Astana teammate, who took control of the race as he ended Rinaldo Nocentini's eight-day run in the overall lead.

Armstrong — who earlier in the race had cited tension within the team amid a rivalry with Contador — conceded he now will play a role of support rider for the Spaniard.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'm happy to be a domestique," Armstrong said, using French

cycling jargon for a backup rider. "I'm proud of him."

Contador basked in the support from the seven-time Tour champion.

"Lance Armstrong was my idol, but dropping him today wasn't important — he was just like any other rider ... It's an honor for me to have him working for me," he told reporters through a translator.

"He's a great professional," Contador added.

The 26-year-old Spaniard broke away from other pre-race favorites with 3.5 miles left in the 128.9-mile ride from Pontarlier, France to the Swiss ski resort of Verbier — and he kept extending his lead through to the finish.

"I'm very happy with this result. The climb wasn't that long but I wanted to make a difference," said Contador, who looked fresh and tapped his chest as he finished. "I gave the maximum."

Contador — the 2007 Tour winner — came into Sunday's stage in third place overall, 6 seconds behind Nocentini. Contador finished in 5 hours, 3 minutes, 58 seconds — and the Italian trailed 2:36 back.

Andy Schleck of Luxembourg was second, 43 seconds back, and Vincenzo Nibali of Italy was third, 1:03 back.

Armstrong, who had entered the day fourth overall and eight seconds behind Nocentini, finished ninth, 1 minute, 35 seconds after the Spaniard.

More importantly, the Texan seven-time Tour champion trails Contador by 1:37 in the overall standings. Bradley Wiggins of Britain climbed from sixth place to third, 1:46

adrift of the Spaniard.

Armstrong's rivalry with Contador, on ice during last week's mostly flat stages, was set to re-ignite in Verbier.

Contador said Sunday's result left no doubt about who should be considered the Astana team leader.

"The differences now are pretty big, and the team's bet should now be me, no?" Contador said. "I'm sure my teammates are going to put in great work to back me up just like they did today."

Armstrong conceded that Contador had been superior.

"I think when Alberto went, he showed he's the best rider in the race, certainly the best climber. ... Hats off to him," Armstrong said.

The American vowed that he would not go against the interests of the team by attacking Contador later in the race.

"That's not going to happen," he said. "There's been a lot of drama between Alberto and me ... but at the end of the day we sit as a team."

Sunday's ride was the first of three stages in the Alps, and the only one of those with an uphill finish. The 5.47-mile ascent from the valley up to Verbier was the first time that the Tour has visited the ski resort.

Ten breakaway riders set the pace from early on in the stage, and chiseled out a maximum gap of 4:40 by the 125-kilometer mark — before the peloton gradually started closing in.

Armstrong hugged Contador's rear wheel as the climb began, but the Spaniard burst ahead of the small group they were in around the 5.6-kilometer mark.

The Texan, during the final climb, at times rose out of his bike saddle with his jersey open and his necklace swinging left and right. Contador, alone with 2.3 kilometers to go, angrily swatted back some fans who were running beside him on the climb.

Riders get a rest day on Monday before the two other Alpine stages, an individual time trial in Annecy on Thursday, and a ride up the dreaded Mont Ventoux on Saturday.

The Tour ends Sunday in Paris

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Tribunal peruano sentenciará este lunes al ex presidente Alberto Fujimori

LIMA (AFP) - Un tribunal especial de Perú sentenciará este lunes al ex presidente Alberto Fujimori por entregar ilegalmente 15 millones de dólares a su ex asesor Vladimiro Montesinos, por lo que el fiscal ha pedido ocho años de cárcel. La lectura de la sentencia comenzará a las 12H00 (17H00 GMT) en el tribunal presidido por César San Martín, el magistrado que encabezó un proceso de 15 meses por violación de derechos humanos, que finalizó en abril con una condena a 25 años de prisión contra Fujimori. Este juicio contra el ex presidente (1990-2000) comenzó el lunes 13 de julio, pero se acortaron procedimientos como la presentación de testigos luego de que el ex mandatario admitiera los hechos que sustentan la acusación de haber entregado ilegalmente el dinero a Montesinos, aunque no aceptó la responsabilidad penal. “Expreso conformidad limitada o relativa con la acusación; solamente acepto los hechos,

no acepto responsabilidad penal, la pena ni la reparación civil”, dijo el ex mandatario de 70 años. Mario Amoretti, abogado penalista, sostuvo: “El Código Penal establece que el funcionario o servidor público que, en mérito a su cargo, recibe dinero del Estado o se apropia de él es autor de peculado. Es decir, se sanciona la apropiación”. Añadió que la Sala Penal deberá considerar “si la reversión del dinero al Estado fue válida y si el Estado se perjudicó”. El proceso que, según analistas, podría haber durado de tres a cuatro meses, concluirá en una semana. El miércoles y viernes la defensa de Fujimori y la parte acusadora -el fiscal y el procurador-, presentaron sus alegatos. Asimismo, en su alegato final, el ex presidente dijo que entregó el dinero a Montesinos para evitar un golpe de Estado que éste preparaba en su contra. Fujimori señaló que autorizó ese pago en el 2000, “obligado

por las circunstancias”, porque el país estaba en “riesgo de un golpe de Estado” pues Montesinos tenía en ese entonces “un control total de la cúpula militar”. Fujimori aseguró que 41 días después de que Montesinos recibiera los 15 millones de dólares y saliera clandestinamente del país, restituyó una cifra similar al erario nacional, pero sin explicar su procedencia. El fiscal Avelino Guillén señaló en rueda de prensa que “no pensaba que (Fujimori) iba a aceptar con una frescura (desvergüenza) absoluta que cometió un delito de corrupción”. “Con ese criterio (de apropiarse de 15 millones de dólares del Estado para entregarlo a Montesinos y devolverlo 41 días después) cualquier funcionario puede sacar dinero estatal, trabajarlo por su cuenta y después devolverlo. Eso es inaceptable y configura delito”, precisó. Una vez culminado ese juicio, Fujimori tendrá que



El ex presidente peruano Alberto Fujimori habla en su alegato final en el juicio por corrupción que se le sigue en Lima el 17 de julio de 2009. Un tribunal especial lo sentenciará este lunes 20 de julio por entregar ilegalmente 15 millones de

afrontar otro proceso judicial por tres casos de corrupción. Uno de ellos es por el pago a congresistas de oposición para que se pasen a las filas del fujimorismo en el 2000. Otro, es la interceptación telefónica y un tercero tiene que ver con la irregular compra del desaparecido Cable Canal de Noticias (CCN).

Fujimori ya tiene dos condenas: una de seis años de cárcel - en diciembre pasado- por un allanamiento ilegal, y otra de 25 años por su responsabilidad en dos matanzas -que dejaron 25 muertos- y dos secuestros durante su gobierno. En Perú no se acumulan las penas y se aplica la más alta de las que se hayan impuesto. □

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